

back on for UNESCO. Not only does it wish to pay nearly \$80 million in dues this year. No, but because it chose to remain in UNESCO rather than doing the prudent thing and withdrawing our membership, we have piled up hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears, late fees.

There has also been an appetite by some here in Congress to partially fund UNESCO and, in effect, turn a blind eye to this troublesome agenda, all for a designation that studies have shown has a minimal, if at all, economic benefit to the local site.

□ 1100

Luckily, Mr. Speaker, we have managed to stave off such a calamitous decision. Reversal of U.S. law on this issue would have set a dangerous example, and it would have shown the world that the U.S. lacks the courage of its convictions and will only do the easy thing when it comes to helping our ally, Israel.

But I know this won't be the last time that we will have to fight this battle, and I would urge my colleagues to not allow any partial funding or any waiver that would undermine our U.S. laws.

I would like to thank my House colleagues who did the right thing and prevented this grave mistake from occurring. We must fully enforce these laws and we must seek ways to leverage our assistance to the United Nations to force the reforms it needs or we have to seek ways to change the way in which we fund the United Nations.

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker.

#### WAR ON POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week, we marked the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty, which began to pave the way for many of the programs that provided basic human dignities that every American deserves.

Fifty years ago, this Congress began to work together on a war against poverty. Unfortunately, today, some of my Republican colleagues have led a different kind of war. Instead of a war to eliminate poverty, it has grown into a shameful war against those living in poverty. These attacks are numerous, from slashing nutrition assistance to cutting unemployment insurance to attacking Social Security, Medicare, and attempting to dismantle health care.

Fighting the war on poverty should not be a Democratic or a Republican idea. Not only are we all in this together, but poverty does not discriminate between political parties. According to the Brookings Institution, there are more than 21 million people living in poverty who live in Republican congressional districts. Equally, there are over 21 million people living in poverty

in Democratic congressional districts. So the burden is on both parties, equally, to recommit ourselves to creating solutions.

The gap between the rich and poor is wide, and it is growing at an alarming rate. Nowhere is this more true than in my home State of New Jersey. In my district alone, the number of households at the top 1 percent have doubled, while the poverty rate has grown to 28 percent.

This is no way for the world's greatest country to lead. We can do better. And we must do better. We must return to the values that have, and always will, make this country great.

We must make investments in education and job training, because how can a man find work if he does not have the skills to enter the workforce?

We must make investments in nutrition assistance, because how can a child learn if he or she is too hungry to focus?

We must make investments in health care, because how can a mother provide for her children if she can't afford to pay her medical bills?

And most importantly, we must make investments in our fellow Americans, to provide them with the opportunities to fulfill their own potential.

My colleagues focus a discouraging amount of energy on cutting the very safety net programs that have lifted millions out of poverty, both in our urban centers and our rural areas. But these programs work. Without our safety net programs, poverty numbers would be double.

So although there is still much more to do, we have come a long way. Turning our backs on the millions of Americans living in poverty is simply not an option. Nothing is more important to the people I represent in New Jersey than having a decent job that pays a decent wage.

My Republican colleagues are kidding themselves if they think these people are lazy or content. Believe me, no one is content living in poverty. No one. These people want to work. They want economic security. And more than anything, they want to create a better life, not only for themselves, but for their children, so that they can forever be free from the clutches of generational poverty.

So, Mr. Speaker, we must remember that the war on poverty declared 50 years ago is an unconditional one. As President Lyndon Baines Johnson said:

Our aim is not only to relieve the symptom of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it.

Congress must renew this commitment by extending unemployment insurance, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, raising the minimum wage, investing in education, and, above all, creating jobs.

Let's work together so that one day we can say that we have won the ultimate war of our time—the war on poverty.

#### SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Sunday, January 19, communities and churches across America will be celebrating the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is a call to defend the sanctity of human life. Since 1983, Americans have observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday as a day to celebrate the intrinsic value of all human life. This important day also provides an opportunity for pregnancy centers to share about the work they do to bring life-affirming resources to their communities and to empower women and men to choose life for their unborn children.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the *ROE v. WADE* and *DOE v. BOLTON* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973.

I look forward to celebrating this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday worshipping with the DuBois First Baptist Church, which is located in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, an area I proudly serve and represent.

That same week, on Wednesday, January 22, the March for Life will be held here in Washington, D.C. What began as a small demonstration has rapidly grown to be one of the largest pro-life events in the world. The peaceful demonstration will be attended by hundreds of thousands of Americans, including many from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, our Founders who penned our Declaration of Independence recognized this first principle, as they stated:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life.

Mr. Speaker, today, we continue to live out this principle. For all of us, protecting the unborn is a value system. It is a cause. It is a distinct understanding that every child, every human life, has a purpose in this world; and that life is sacred, and it must be protected.

The only way to offer a voice for those who have no voice is to band together. By educating our children and effectively communicating with our communities on the importance of life, this is how we will successfully lead this fight. Both Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and March for Life are spent doing that—celebrating life and spreading our message.

Mr. Speaker, as for the right to life, Americans, born and yet to be born, deserve as much.